

PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS care for mentally impaired or emotionally disturbed individuals, following physician instructions and hospital procedures. They monitor patients' physical and emotional well being and report to medical staff. They may participate in rehabilitation and treatment programs, help with personal hygiene, and administer oral medications and hypodermic injections.

Requirements

- ▲ Must be at least 18 years old.
- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Graduation from a Board-approved 12-month Psychiatric Technician program or a combination of nursing science coursework and paid work experience.
- ▲ Qualifying scores on the written licensing exam.
- ▲ Licensed by the California Board of Vocational Nurse and Psychiatric Technician Examiners.
- ▲ Able to respond to needs of emotionally disturbed or developmentally disabled patients.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Wages

- ▲ Psychiatric Technicians
Median hourly wage: \$20.81
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$43,220

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

Psychiatric Technicians

Job Outlook

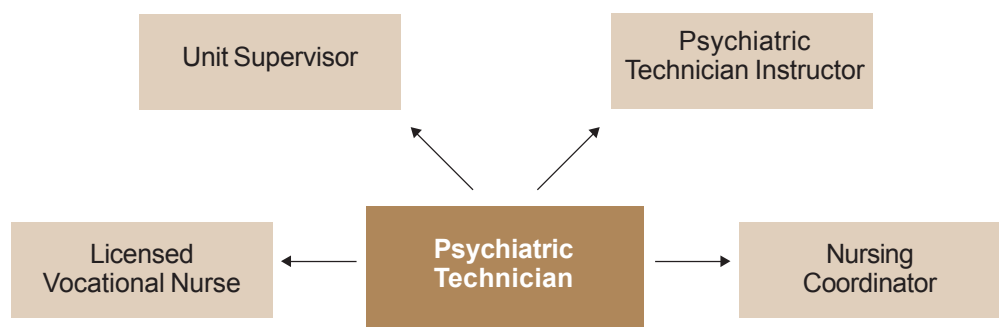
- ▲ Estimated number of Psychiatric Technicians in 2004: 9,900
- ▲ Estimated number of Psychiatric Technicians in 2014: 11,500
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 290

Source: *Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.*

Sources of Information

- ▲ Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
(916) 263-7800
www.bvnpt.ca.gov/factpt.htm
- ▲ California Association of Psychiatric Technicians
(800) 677-2278
www.psych-health.com
- ▲ *California Occupational Guide*, No. 95
Psychiatric Technicians

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.